Appln. No. 09/972,290
Amendment After Final dated March 28, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (previously presented) A system as in claim 33 wherein the action information includes default priority information used to control information which does not otherwise have an entry in the flow control table.

3. (original) A system as in claim 2 wherein the system includes a switch for switching information and a controller coupled to the switch for storing the flow control table and controlling the switch in response thereto.

4. (original) A system as in claim 3 wherein the switch comprises a router and the flow control table is maintained by a controller in the router.

5. (original) A system as in claim 4 wherein the router controller is itself controlled by a computer.

6. (original) A system as in claim 3 wherein the router controller manages the flow control table using an applications program interface.

7. (original) A system as in claim 2 wherein the system comprises an IP router.

8. (original) A system as in claim 2 wherein the system comprises an IP switch.

9. (previously presented) A system as in claim 33 wherein the action information in flow control table is established by an applications program interface which communicates with the system.

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10. (original) A system as in claim 9 wherein the applications program interface employs an argument which includes an "if" portion for determining the origin of the source of received information, and a "then" portion for specifying handling of the received information.

11. (original) A system as in claim 10 wherein the then portion includes a reference to the stored program.

12. (original) A system as in claim 11 wherein the then portion further includes a parameter to be supplied to the stored program.

13. (original) A system as in claim 11 wherein the then portion further includes a location at which the stored program is to be executed.

14. (previously presented) A system as in claim 33 wherein the stored program is used to manage a network.

15. (currently amended) A method for providing information to a stored program executing operating on a computer coupled to an output port of a device in a network, the method comprising:

providing the information to the network in a format which includes payload information and address information to direct the payload information to the device;

in the device, storing a flow control table which has entries, each entry including which each include source addresses representative of at least one source of information arriving at the device, destination addresses representative of at least one of the destinations to which the arriving information arriving at the device is to be sent from the output port, and action information for each destination address, and the payload information is sent by the device to the destination referred to by the destination address; and

wherein the action information in the flow control table includes at least one program reference, and when the computer receives the payload information associated with that entry in the flow control table, in response tthe computer uses the payload information o which the computer coupled to receive information from the output port receives the information addressed to it and uses the received information in execution of the stored program.

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16. (original) A method as in claim 15 wherein the action information includes default information used to control information which does not otherwise have an entry in the flow control table.

17. (original) A method as in claim 15 further including a step of using the computer to control the switching system.

18. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein the computer is used to control a network.

Claim 19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented) A device as in claim 34 wherein the source comprises a source of information coupled to the network.

21. (original) A device as in claim 20 wherein the computer is directly connected to the output port.

22. (previously presented) A device as in claim 34 wherein the action information includes default priority information used to control information which does not otherwise have an entry in the flow control table.

23. (previously presented) A device as in claim 34 wherein the device includes a switch for switching information based on the destination addresses, and a controller coupled to the switch for storing the flow control table and controlling the switch in response thereto.

24. (original) A device as in claim 23 wherein the switch comprises a router.

25. (original) A device as in claim 24 wherein the controller is itself controlled by a computer.

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26. (original) A device as in claim 23 wherein the controller manages the flow control table using an applications program interface.

27. (original) A device as in claim system as in claim 23 wherein the action information in the flow control table is established by an applications program interface which communicates with the device.

28. (original) A device as in claim 27 wherein the applications program interface employs an argument which includes an "if" portion for determining the origin of the source of received information, and a "then" portion for specifying handling of the received information.

29. (original) A device as in claim 28 wherein the "then" portion includes a reference to the stored program.

30. (original) A device as in claim 29 wherein the "then" portion further includes a parameter to be supplied to the stored program.

31. (original) A device as in claim 30 wherein the "then" portion further includes location at which the stored program is to be executed.

32. (previously presented) A device as in claim 34 wherein the stored program is used to manage the network.

33. (currently amended) In a system having a stored program executing on a computer coupled to a network, apparatus for enabling packets of information to be provided to a particular instance of the execution of the stored program, the apparatus comprisingA system for providing information to a stored program operating on a computer coupled to a device connected to a network, the device comprising::

at least one input port for receiving packets of information from a source coupled to the network, at least some of which packets individually include a payload and include a header having an addressand a payload;

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at least one output port for providing the packets ~~of information~~ from the source to ~~a destination,~~ the computer when a packet is addressed to the computer~~being coupled to receive the packets of information addressed to the computer from the output port~~;

a flow control table for storing at least the headers of the packets of information, which header includes:

a source address representative of at least one source of the packet arriving at the input port;

a destination addresses indicative ~~representative~~ of at least one destination to which the packet is to be sent ~~from the output port~~; and

action information for that packet, the ~~which~~ action information including ~~includes~~ at least one reference to the stored program executing on the computer; and

wherein, when the action information in the flow control table so specifies, a packet with action information specifying an operation by the computer is forwarded to the computer, and that packet is used in execution of the stored program.

34. (currently amended) A device adapted for connection to a network, the device for providing information to a stored program executing ~~operating~~ on a computer coupled to the device, the device comprising:

at least one input port for receiving packets of information from a source coupled to the network, at least some of which packets individually include a payload and a header having an address~~include a header and a payload~~;

at least one output port for providing the packets of information from the source to a destination, the computer being coupled to receive the packets of information addressed to the computer ~~from the output port~~;

a flow control table for storing at least the headers of the packets of information, which header includes:

a source address representative of at least one source of the packet arriving at the input port;

a destination addresses indicative ~~representative~~ of at least one destination to which the packet is to be sent from the output port; and

action information for that packet, the ~~which~~ action information including ~~includes~~ at least one reference to the stored program executing on the computer; and

wherein based upon the action information, information the payload is ~~from the output port is transmitted to the computer and~~ used in execution of the stored program.